

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 EA-06 TRSE-00 /051 W

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P 010820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2295

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, TC, US

SUBJ: MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA'S DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON

1. MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA TOOK ME ASIDE AT SOCKAL FUNCTION
YESTERDAY EVENING TO TELL ME OF HIS PLANS TO MAKE TRIP TO JAPAN THIS
MONTH FOR WORLD OIL CONGRESS AND RETURN VIA U.S. AND EUROPE. HE
WANTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER USG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING HIM
STOP OFF FOR DAY OR TWO IN WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE

U.S. OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE HAD BROACHED IDEA WITH SHAIKH ZAYID, WHO
WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND FELT THIS WAS A GOOD TIME FOR HIGH LEVEL
EXCHANGE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON ENERGY MATTERS. OTAIBA
SAID HE FRANKLY WOULD NOT WISH TO COME UNLESS HE RECEIVED AN
INVITATION FROM THE USG AND HAD SOME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT
SECRETARIES SIMON AND KISSINGER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SEE HIM.

2. OTAIBA IS PLANNING TO LEAVE HERE MAY 9 FOR TOKYO, WHERE HE WILL
ATTEND OPENING OF CONGRESS. VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON MAY 15 AND 16
WOULD FIT IN BEST WITH HIS SCHEDULE, BUT HE HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY AND
COULD COME AS LATE AS MAY 20 IF THIS TIMING IS BETTER FROM USG
STANDPOINT. HE WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY FIVE PEOPLE, UNDERSECRETARY
OF PETROLEUM ABDULLAH ISMAIL, MRS. OTAIBA AND MRS. ISMAIL, AND TWO
OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM.

3. RECOMMENDATION: I RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND
INVITATION IN NAME OF EITHER SECRETARY KISSINGER OR SECRETARY SIMON
TO OTAIBA FOR TWO DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME BETWEEN MAY 15
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AND MAY 20 AS GUEST OF USG. OTAIBA IS ONE OF TWO OR THREE KEY

OFFICIALS IN UAE, AND SHAIKH ZAYID LEANS HEAVILY ON HIS ADVICE IN FORMULATING ABU DHABI OIL POLICY. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST RESPONSIVE OFFICIALS HERE TO OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE UAEG IN DIALOGUE NOT ONLY ON OIL ISSUE BUT ON BORADER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS AS WELL. THIS IS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY OUR VIEWS ON WHOLE RANGE OF ENERGY MATTERS TO UAEG AT AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL, AND TO RECIPROcate HOSPITALITY UAEG INVARABILY EXTENDS TO RANKING US VISITORS HERE.

4. OTAIBA IS NATURALLY ANXIOUS TO FIRM UP HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WOULD LIKE TO BE IN POSITION TO GIVE HIM RESPONSE, WHICH I VERY MUCH HOPE CAN BE POSITIVE, BY MAY 4 AT LATEST.

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